

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 409

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Blount County Public Library upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those venerable institutions that are devoted to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such institution is the Blount County Public Library, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, numerous visionary and dedicated individuals and organizations, including the Chilhowee Club, The Tuesday Club, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, had a dream for a library in the City of Maryville; and

WHEREAS, this dream was that the library would be a living, growing force in the City of Maryville; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 1919, the Maryville Public Library, now known as the Blount County Public Library, opened on the second story of a local downtown store, the Waller Gamble Building; and

WHEREAS, in the years that followed, citizens did uphold the library as a living, growing force in the community, overcoming financial obstacles, a shortage of books, lack of heating and cooling, and more; and

WHEREAS, through the generosity of donors, the library expanded and moved into the Toole Building in January 1927; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. A.K. Harper donated \$15,000 and the "best vacant lot in her possession" for a new library building, which opened in 1931 on Church Street; and

WHEREAS, through the tireless dedication of the librarians, staff, and directors and the generosity of volunteers and local citizens, the Blount County Public Library has continued to be a living, growing force in the community, expanding its resources with the technology of the day; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the library continued being a living, growing force, offering more services to Blount County by moving to a new and larger building on McGhee Street; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County community has continuously responded to the library by frequently using its resources, including print and non-print, CD-ROM, computers, and the internet; and

WHEREAS, as the Blount County community used the library so much and library resources increased to such a large extent, there was again a need to move to an even larger building; and

WHEREAS, the current Blount County Public Library on Cusick Street opened in 2002 and now, with a collection size of over 200,000 items, serves a diverse population of 130,000 citizens, reaching over 1,000 people daily; and

WHEREAS, after 100 years of service, the Blount County Public Library continues to uphold the democratic values of freedom of information to all; and

WHEREAS, the statement by A. Belle Smith, the first librarian, still holds true, "[The library] can reach your home—in books. It can educate, amuse, cheer, and re-create—with books"; and

WHEREAS, while the library offers more than books today, it can still reach your home by educating, amusing, cheering, and recreating; and

WHEREAS, in the next 100 years, the Blount County Public Library will continue to be a living, growing force in the community by celebrating history, creating connections, and inspiring imaginations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the librarians, staff, volunteers, and patrons of the Blount County Public Library on the occasion of the library's 100th anniversary and extend our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.